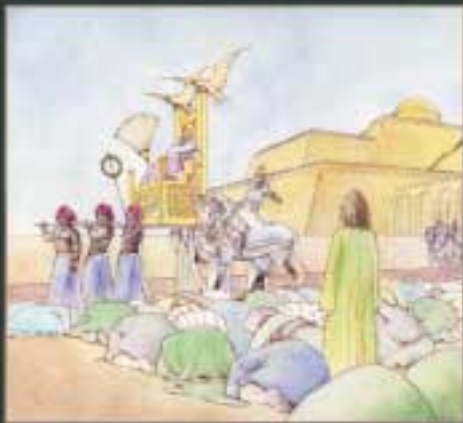


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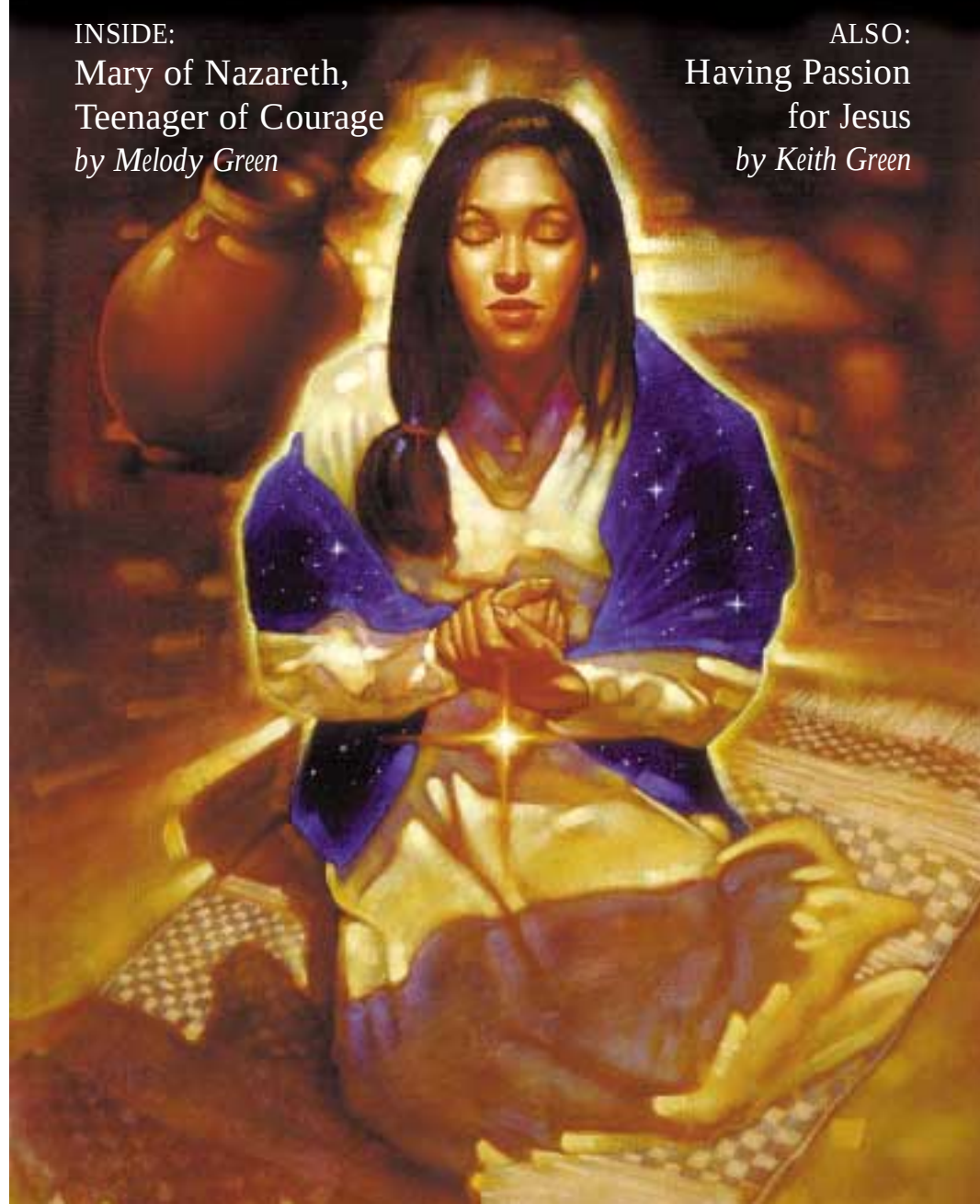


The Last Days

Vol. 1, No. 2, 2000

INSIDE:
Mary of Nazareth,
Teenager of Courage
by Melody Green

ALSO:
Having Passion
for Jesus
by Keith Green



Angels We Have Heard On High



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's nearly Christmas. The season we gather to celebrate our Redeemer coming to earth — not as a magnificent king in shimmering robes — but as a tiny helpless baby. And when Jesus first opened His eyes He didn't see a velvet lined cradle, marbled castle walls, hovering royal servants, or an imperial guard standing in salute.

Instead Jesus looked into the wide eyes of a simple young girl and her new husband — in a cold, lonely barn that smelled of manure and rotting hay. A place not fit for humans, let alone the King of the Universe.

Jesus came to win our hearts and reconcile us to God. That's why I love to celebrate Christmas. But His short earthly life was filled with much sorrow, misunderstanding, and pain. God didn't send Him to live an easy life. Jesus came to pay for our sins so we wouldn't have to. He paid with His very life. I think of this at Christmas, too.

I also think of Mary of Nazareth. The mother of Jesus. I wrote about her because she has inspired me for years. The Lord keeps putting her on my heart. I try to put myself in her place, at her young age, and in her time of history — and I am absolutely astounded by her obedience and devotion. I hope you too are inspired by what I share about Mary's life.

In this issue too, is a short devotional from the new book of teachings by Keith Green, "If You Love The Lord." Also you will find the classic LDM article, The Christian Drummer Boy. It is a touching true story you will never forget.

With the relaunch of LDM our pro-life arm, Americans Against Abortion, is also reignited — as you will see in this issue. We want to inspire all of you to stand strongly for life, and give you tools to do it. Not because we think it's a good idea, but because *God* does.

In closing, I thank you so much for all your wonderful letters! We are deeply grateful for your support and your motivating words to keep pressing forward. It means so much to hear from you. Please keep writing!

On Behalf of Everyone at LDM,

Melody Green



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Mary^{of} Nazareth

Teenage Girl of Courage and Character

by Melody Green

Let's take a look at the life of Mary, the young teenage girl God hand-picked to be the mother of Jesus. Her incredible life was more heroic and more intriguing than most of us realize.

The Lord has been putting Mary of Nazareth on my heart for many years as one of the most faithful and devoted young women of all time. Still I usually forget about her except at Christmas, when I set up my nativity and put her statue next to Joseph and baby Jesus.

I realize everyone who loves Jesus might not totally agree on certain aspects about the life of Mary. But that shouldn't obscure the treasure and example Mary's life holds. Especially for young people. There are facts so clearly outlined in the Bible that believers of every age should seek to imitate the incredible faith, devotion, and trust of this young, simple Jewish girl.

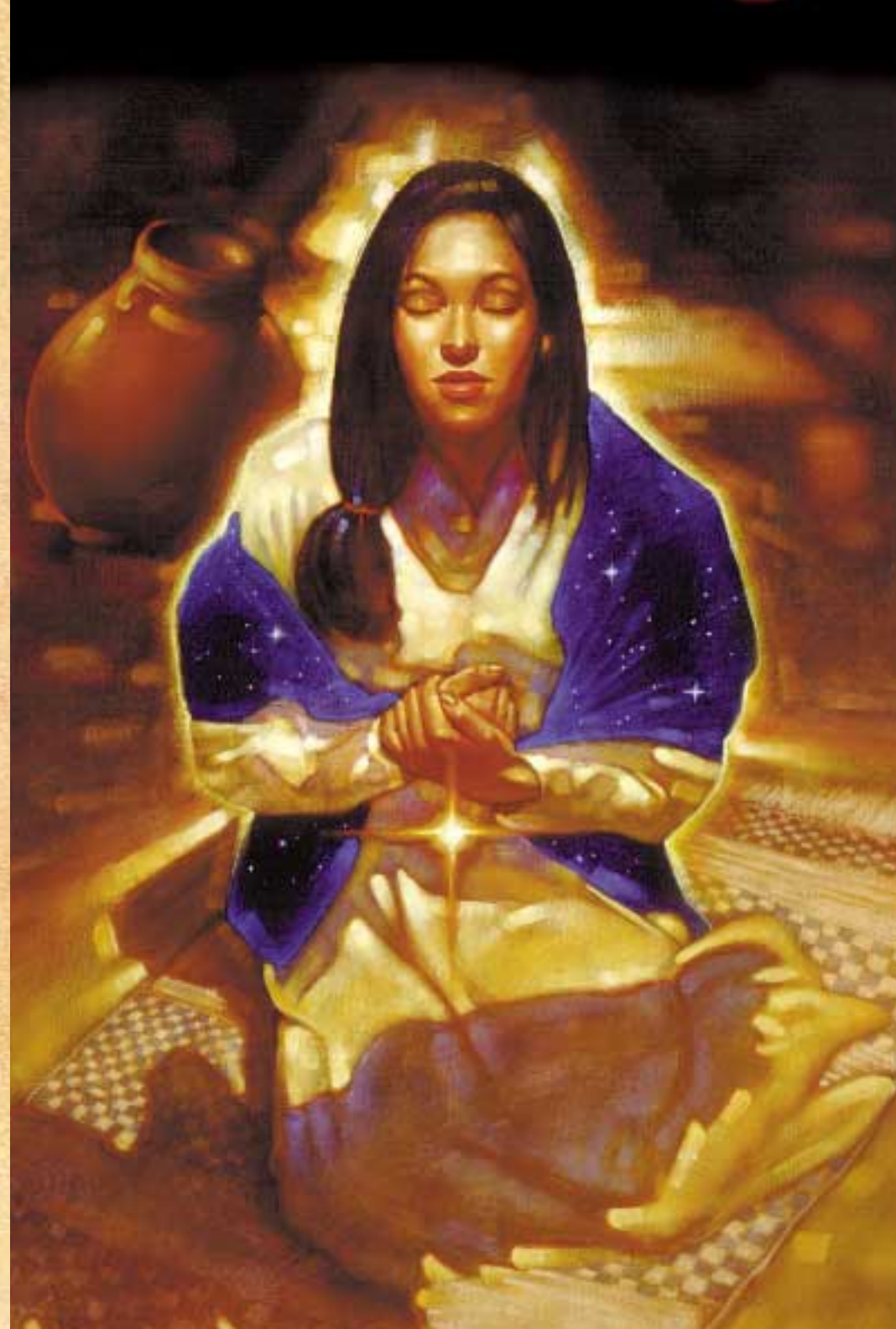
It might be hard to put yourself in Mary's shoes. If you're a woman it will be difficult because society is so different today. If you're a man it will be even more difficult. But I ask each of you, just for a moment, to try to put yourself in Mary's situation.

We don't realize what it cost Mary to say yes to God. But let's go back to that time in Israel's history and count the cost with Mary – or as she was called in Hebrew, Miryam.

Close Your Eyes And Imagine...

Your name is Mary. You are a young Jewish girl and most historians agree you're between the age of 12 and 14. You have long dark hair and Mediterranean features. You live in Nazareth, a small sleepy village in the Galilee region of the middle east. Everybody knows everybody in Nazareth. Life is difficult there because of harsh Roman rule – but you labor with your family to survive. You may not be wealthy, but you're rich in other ways. You've been raised in a devout Jewish home, you know God's Laws, and you love Him with all your heart.

Girls in your world aren't taught to read or write, and they marry young. So your focus, besides serving God, is to marry a good Jewish man and be an honorable wife and mother. You've been trained all your life for this – learning to cook, weave, clean, harvest, care for children, to prepare for the Sabbath meal and the more elaborate holiday feasts.



And like all Jewish people, you wait for the promised Messiah to come deliver you from bondage. You can't actually read the prophecies, but you've heard them so often at synagogue or at family meals you've memorized many of them. How often might you think, *Oh, if the Messiah would only come rescue us soon!* How could you even imagine that as a poor, unmarried teenager you would be part of God's mysterious plan to do just that?

Now imagine that a godly man named Joseph asks your father for your hand. Suddenly you're engaged – a legal contract so binding only divorce can dissolve it. You're not actually married or intimate, but you've vowed your fidelity to Joseph. If you're found with another man, even during engagement, it would be considered adultery, and Joseph could have you stoned to death. You'd seen it happen to others, but you weren't worried. You were pure and had no desire to change that. This is a very exciting and joyous time in your life. A big wedding is being planned and you're about to fulfill all your dreams!

Sovereign Vessel

What you didn't know when you got engaged to Joseph, was that you were a sovereign vessel of the Lord. Of course, sovereign vessels are chosen very carefully. Not just any devoted Jewish virgin would do when it came to conceiving and raising God's only Son – the Savior of the world. God wanted a girl He could trust all the way to the end. Someone who'd already proven her character. God wanted the very best.

And what made Mary the best? That question reminds me of a movie I saw years ago. An allegory. God needed someone for an important job on earth. The angel Gabriel said to God, "Do you want the smartest or the holiest?" God quipped, "I want the holiest. I can *make* them smart!" This reminds me of Mary. God knew her godly devotion to Him would carry her through the turbulent course her life would take. That she could faithfully endure to the end.

She Said Yes

Now imagine this. You're all alone, perhaps thinking about your upcoming marriage and an angel appears to you with some startling news.

"God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth... to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.' Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.'" (Lk 1:26-33)

This was a staggering thing for anyone to hear. Especially a young teenager!

Surely Mary had felt the powerful presence of God before, in her own times of worship and the religious services in her Jewish community. She was familiar with His presence. She *knew* God.

Still, she had a question. And I like that. She was not afraid to ask questions. It showed she was a learner. And smart. It was a practical question, not one of doubt.

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

"The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.'" (Lk 1:34,35)

Then Gabriel threw in a bit more information. Perhaps he knew Mary might want to check it out.

"Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." (Lk 1:36,37)



You could probably hear a pin drop. Mary had a moment to respond. Yes or no. What would it be? Have you ever had to make a decision you knew would change your life forever? I'm sure Mary quickly counted the cost of being pregnant before she was married – her reputation, Joseph, her family, even possible death. She couldn't know the whole cost, but she knew enough to make an informed decision. Besides, she could feel the holy presence of God. She was willing.

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." (Lk 1:38)

What Did Mary's "Yes" Cost?

Mary's decision could have put her, and her family, and Joseph in the path of a horrendous scandal. A scandal that could take her life. And what would she tell Joseph? Was it safe to share with anyone? Maybe she thought, I'll just say, "I'm pregnant... but I'm still a virgin." Right. How about, "Well, actually God put this baby in my womb. It's His Son Jesus. Oh, and He is the Messiah we're all waiting for..." Did she think anyone would believe her? Did she worry about Joseph's reaction? Did she care? One thing was sure: When her pregnancy became obvious it would look like she had committed adultery unless God intervened.

So Mary did what most of us would do. She immediately left town! I don't think she wanted to face anyone. I think she needed to gather her composure and thoughts before seeing Joseph. Also, the angel told her Elizabeth was pregnant. If I was Mary, I'd want to see that for myself. It takes awhile to know if you're pregnant. What if you'd only had an overly spiritual experience with absolutely no substance? Why risk rejection and death? Wisdom says, before you open your mouth, check it out.

The Bible says,

"Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed:

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!" (Lk 1:39-45)

Within moments the truth was confirmed.

Then from Mary's lips tumbles one of the most beautiful and humble prayers recorded in the Bible. Remember she is 12-14 years old and cannot read. Her spontaneous prayer gives us a window into her heart – and an inkling of why God picked her above all others. No one, of any age, could have prayed this without having a deep intimacy with their God. Mary said,

*"My soul glorifies the Lord
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
For he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant
From now on all generations
will call me blessed
For the Mighty One has done
great things for me
Holy is his name
His mercy extends to those who fear him
From generation to generation
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm
He has scattered those who are proud
in their inmost thoughts
He has brought down rulers
from their thrones
But has lifted up the humble*



*He has filled the hungry with good things
But has sent the rich away empty
He has helped his servant Israel
Remembering to be merciful
To Abraham and his descendants forever
Even as he said to our fathers."
(Lk 1:46-55)*

From our lips our heart speaks. Mary could finally rejoice! She was now 100% certain her visitation wasn't a dream. And seeing Zechariah using frantic sign language was perhaps a humorous postscript. When the angel Gabriel visited Zechariah, a well read priest, to tell him his barren wife would conceive, unlike Mary he doubted. To make his point, Gabriel left him unable to speak until the day their son would be born.

Facing Joseph

Mary stayed with Elizabeth three months then went home. She'd had time to pray and was ready to face Joseph, her family, and everyone else. It's unclear if Mary said anything, or if her pregnancy just became obvious. But when Joseph found out he didn't want to marry her. He didn't want her stoned to death or publicly disgraced either, so he planned to divorce her quietly. He must have wondered who the father was and been heartbroken to feel so betrayed by a girl he trusted and most likely loved deeply. His beautiful, faithful Mary... pregnant! Mary must have been devastated, too. She was willing to bear the injustice, but I imagine she cried out to God with a desperate "it's now or never" kind of prayer. She trusted God to defend her. He did.

The Lord sent an angel to Joseph in a dream.

"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son,

and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Mt. 1:20, 21)

Not a lot is known about Joseph. But he too was obviously hand selected by God – to take care of Mary and raise Jesus – and to hear and obey God the many times He would give him guidance during their lifetime.

So Joseph took Mary as his wife. God provided care and protection through Joseph, but all of Nazareth must have still questioned her pregnancy. Did Mary tell people what happened? She clearly wasn't into protecting herself – but she would protect the holy seed of God. It must have been difficult for her and Joseph to endure the constant gossip and speculation. But God was about to send them away from Nazareth, for awhile anyway.

Pregnant, Married, On The Move

The Roman Empire called a census which required everyone to return to their birth place to register. Joseph was from Bethlehem so he and Mary were forced to make an 80 mile desert journey when Mary was in her ninth month. They were poor. Did they have to walk? Was there an animal to ride? Either way imagine Mary's discomfort. And concern. I'm sure she was counting on being with her mom and her girlfriends to help with her baby's birth. Traveling over bumpy rocks and hills to a strange town must have been frightening. What if she had her baby in the middle of the desert? Still, she followed her husband and trusted God.

When the couple got to Bethlehem, things got worse. Mary went into labor and there was no place for them to stay. You know the story. If Mary wanted to get mad at God, this would have been the perfect time! Did He want her to give birth on a street corner? Why didn't God at least provide a warm room if she

couldn't be with her family? Didn't God know there was going to be a census? But there's no record of Mary complaining. Only trusting. God provided a stable.

So, there she was, about to give birth to the King of Glory – in a most unglorious place. Not to mention unsterile, uncomfortable, and cold. And lonely. It must have smelled of manure and rotting hay... and dirty animals. But it was in this humble place that our Lord Jesus was born. He was wrapped in rags and put in a feeding trough for a cradle. It marked the beginning of His journey on earth. And the beginning of Mary's joy and sorrow as His mother.

The only visitors they had were the ones God sent: Some shepherds from a nearby field (the roughnecks of their day) and some Gentiles who were not part of Jewish life at all. Still, they read the starry heavens and recognized this miraculous event!

Eight days after His birth, according to Jewish Law, Jesus was circumcised and officially named. About a month later He was taken to the temple in Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord. While there, a devout man named Simeon recognized Jesus as the Messiah. He also gave a frightening prophecy to His young mother. Simeon told Mary,

"A sword will pierce through your own soul also." (Lk. 2:35)

Meanwhile, King Herod heard the Jewish Messiah had been born and jealously ordered the slaughter of every male child aged two or under, living in or near Bethlehem. But God gave Joseph another angelic dream telling him to take Jesus and His mother to Egypt where they'd be safe. Now they were refugees on the run.

After King Herod died the Lord sent Mary and Joseph back to Israel, then guided them home to Nazareth. Now among family and friends, Mary and

Joseph, who was a carpenter, raised Jesus. Many years passed and perhaps it began to seem more like a normal life after so much drama in the early years. The privilege of raising Jesus to manhood must have been phenomenal. What an incredible and awesome responsibility!

Mary Alone

Many scholars believe Joseph died during Jesus' teenage years because the Bible simply stops mentioning him. So now Mary would endure the loneliness of a widowed single mother. A single mother with many treasures hidden in her heart about Jesus. As Jesus grew He continued to demonstrate the gifts that would eventually take Him away from His mother and Nazareth. Mary must have felt it too.

It was Mary who compelled Jesus to do his first miracle of turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana. Jesus already had 12 disciples following Him, and when they saw this miracle their commitment grew. And as the fulfillment of Jesus' calling drew closer, Mary needed to give Him greater release in her own heart. He'd lived at home about 30 years. Now He would be thrust onto the center stage of history – and sent forth.

Sadly, when Jesus returned to Nazareth with His message, He was not well received. It must have hurt Mary to see her son rejected by their friends and relatives. We don't really know how much contact Jesus had with His mother once His ministry kicked into high gear. We know Mary sought Him out at least once while He was teaching in a home. But I'm sure she kept track of Him, as any loving mother would.

Was Mary in Jerusalem, which is far away from Nazareth, when Jesus was arrested? Did the crowd drown out her cries for Jesus when they yelled for Barabbas instead of the life of her son? Did she see Him scourged? Did she follow helplessly by His side as He carried

His cross down the Via Dolorosa? There's a good chance Mary was there for all that because we know one thing for sure:

Mary was in Jerusalem when Jesus was crucified.

She was with Him at the cross.

At The Cross

Mary was a powerful and courageous witness to her own child's execution. Did she understand He would rise from the dead? Perhaps not. The disciples certainly didn't understand. Mary must have watched in unbearable sorrow as long rugged nails were hammered into her Son's wrists and ankles. She must have gasped as the wooden cross was raised high, then dumped into the ground. She knew this inhumane, torturous Roman execution was reserved only for the most despicable criminals.

As Mary watched perhaps all her promises — the very things she'd based her whole life on – were being nailed to that cross with Jesus. The Romans put a sign above His head saying, "King of the Jews." Wasn't He? Where was His promised throne? Wasn't His Kingdom going to last forever? Did her heart cry out, *"Son, why won't you save yourself?"* But Jesus said nothing in His defense, and the most broken of all hearts in the crowd had to be that of His mother.

Have you ever wondered if it was Mary who lovingly wove Jesus the rare tunic without seams? The tunic the Centurions who crucified Jesus were throwing dice for? Whether she did or not, to watch your child's clothing gambled for as He was being unjustly executed would certainly bring unspeakable anguish.

Mary agonizing with Jesus at His death must have been deeply intense and personal. She showed great courage simply by being there. Perhaps only a mother who has unjustly lost a child to violence could come close to understanding her

pain. Mary gave birth to Jesus, hidden in a dirty stable, with Joseph as her only witness. Now she was with Jesus at His death, on a dirty cross, on a busy highway. Big, brave Peter lied three times to distance himself. But Mary's sister was with her, and Mary Magdalene, and the disciple, John. They are the only ones close to Jesus who were mentioned.

The Bible says,

"When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, 'Dear woman, here is your son, and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home." (Jn. 19:26,27)

Having provided for His mothers care, Jesus died.

Did Mary see Jesus after His resurrection? He walked the earth for 40 days appearing to His disciples and many others, so it's probable He appeared to His mother. We do know Mary continued on as part of the Early Church. She is mentioned at a prayer meeting in the Upper Room where,

"They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus..." (Acts 1:13,14)

It was the room where Jesus had eaten his last supper.

Mary's turbulent life built within her a deep treasure of experience, wisdom, and

trust. Surely she used it to encourage the faith of the young believers around her. I can imagine a group pressed close to Mary saying, "Please tell us again about your visitation – and Gabriel, and Elizabeth, and the stable, and Joseph's angelic dreams, and..."

We know the persecution of the Early Church was intense. But Mary was again willing to be in the center of dangerous controversy. She again put her life on the line to follow God. Her reputation was given up years before to endure gossip, hardship, and unfair judgments. She bravely watched her son and her Savior executed as a common criminal. Mary was continually willing to pay the price to be on the cutting edge of God's desire for the ages.

Mary spoke truly when as a teenager she said, "I am the Lord's servant." She said yes and never took it back. Who she was, how she chose to live, and what she stood for will always remain to inspire and challenge all believers to walk strongly and humbly with God.

Yes, Mary was blessed among all women. But to whom much is given, much is required. Her personal sacrifice for that honor is something no other woman will ever have to make. For this and much more, Mary's faith and devotion to God is eternally worthy of our honor and imitation. Her life is also an example of God's faithfulness to us when we follow Him.



Melody Green is President of Last Days Ministries. She is a well known speaker, songwriter, and author.

Painting of Mary, "The Overshadowing" by Ron DiCianni.

This article is available in print to pass out or use at Bible studies.

Refer to WiseTract #2001 when ordering.

You can also download it free for your personal use at www.lastdaysministries.org

LDM Resource Catalog

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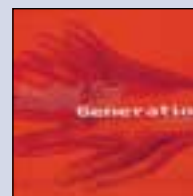
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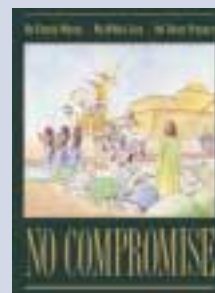
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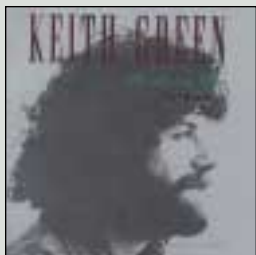
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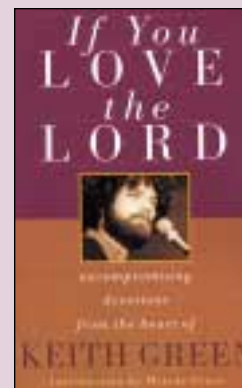
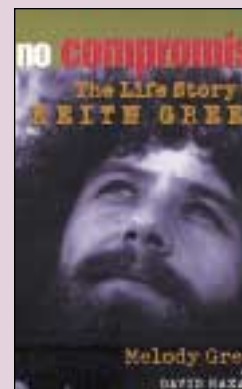
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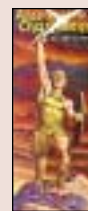
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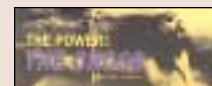
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Having Passion for Jesus

by Keith Green

We are sharing a few chapters from the new book, *If You Love The Lord*, a devotional from the writings and teachings of Keith Green. If Keith was anything, he was passionate for Jesus. He captured the heart of God in worship and prayer and then he told the rest of us what he heard. He was captivated by Jesus – in his life and in his ministry. Keith was a true worshipper.

The painting of Keith is by Ron DiCianni. It's called, *The Incense of Worship*. The original hung in the Billy Graham Museum most of this year – where it inspired many towards worship and loving Jesus. Ron's artwork is loved around the world. He painted Keith for his new book, *"The Travels of Messenger"* where he honored Keith as one of his heroes in the faith.

We wanted to share Ron's painting with you, together with some of Keith's own words, which as you know were often strong and challenging. But Keith loved both spirit and truth. Perhaps it was because Keith had such a heart of devotion and worship that the anointing on his life lingers on, like sweet incense to inspire us to obedience and boldness for the Lord.

Beyond the Bless-Me Club

Being one of Jesus' first disciples couldn't have been easy. Christ continually challenged everyone's motives. In fact, one of his toughest questions, posed in Luke 6:46, haunts me: "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

Jesus throws out this challenge because He knows human nature. He knows that you and I want the security of friendship with Him. We want his love and peace, plus the assurance that we're going to spend eternity with Him.

He also knows that, in our human nature, we don't want it to cost us anything. We want something for nothing, sort of a personal "bless-me club."

But that's a one-way friendship. So His challenge brings us face-to-face with one of the great paradoxes of the gospel: Yes, salvation is God's free gift, but receiving that gift is going to cost us everything – our whole life. We must surrender our lives to Him, let our old selves die so we can be born anew into His family.

That was Jesus' challenge to His disciples, and His challenge to us too.

Have you truly died to yourself? Who is ruling on the throne of your life? Are you still in command? It's Jesus asking, "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

An Arresting Kind of Belief

Remember the apostle Paul's testimony? He told the Romans, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16). Now that's just the kind of committed, sold-out believer God looks for – one with no reason to be ashamed of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice!

As a Pharisee, Paul had worked so hard, thinking he could earn God's favor, that it flat-out amazed him to learn that the Lord's grace was free. God sent an invitation to everyone in the world to the biggest social event of the universe! Paul couldn't keep this news to himself. It captivated him. In fact he called himself a "captive of Christ" long after Jesus said, "I call you friends."

So why is it that some Christians say they have God's invitation, then act ashamed of it, too embarrassed to tell their friends? What does that say about their belief? It doesn't sound like the same kind of believing Paul practiced, does it? What about you and me? What are we doing with the invitation?

Jesus always taught that sharing our faith with others is a mark of the Christian life. His last word to us before He left the earth was a command to go into all the world and share the gospel with everyone. Just a few days before He mounted the cross on which He would die, He told His disciples something I just can't get away from:

Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of

the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:34-40

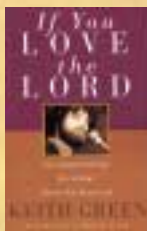
O Father, let your Spirit burn these words into our hearts! Let us be so flat-out amazed by your Son that we take off the old life of self-centeredness and put on the new life of loving and serving others like Jesus. Let us feed the hungry and clothe the naked, visit the prisoners and welcome strangers.

We're not saved by doing these good works, but Jesus said if we are saved our lives will produce good works. We'll have a new heart within, a new way of looking at people, and our new hearts will compel us to reach out to others. Like Paul, we'll be waiting to bless as we've been blessed, absolutely captivated by the love of Jesus.



Excerpts from the book, *If You Love The Lord*, chapters 2 and 47, used with permission from Harvest House Publishers. This book is available through LDM and at your local bookstore.

The Incense of Worship painting by Ron DiCianni used with the artists permission. Ron uses his talent to express what he sees in the spirit to bring forth a powerful message. Prints of this painting are available exclusively through LDM. See our Ministry Materials section to order the book or art print.



Thank You For Your Love and Support!



Thank you so much for your overwhelming response to our first LDM Magazine of the year 2000. We received so many encouraging phone calls, emails, and letters from you. Your words were filled with great excitement and encouragement for us to keep pressing on. It feels great to know you've been missed!

We are so excited about getting the LDM Magazine out again – and that we are now sending out our LDM tracts in their original format. We're relaunching Americans Against Abortion too – and supplying pro-life workers and clinics around the world with materials that will help save babies lives. Also, the Web-site keeps getting increased visitors, too. Things are very exciting here at LDM.

In the coming year I will again be going on the road to do more ministry. Perhaps I'll have a chance to come to your area. If I do I hope to have a chance to meet some of you, so be sure to come up and introduce yourself!

Much Love in Jesus,

Melody Green

Prayerfully Consider What You Can Send

We hope you understand as we ask for your continued – and generous – financial support. Relaunching LDM is a huge undertaking. It has left us very little to get the magazine out – let alone work on the new LDM projects and ministry materials we believe will touch your hearts and the lives of others.

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The following story is a true account, taken from an old, out-of-print book called "Touching Incidents And Remarkable Answers To Prayer." It was compiled by S.B. Shaw and published in 1894. Grab a cup of hot chocolate, gather the family together, and read this one out loud to everyone. We believe it will touch your hearts as much as it has touched ours. We serve a truly faithful God!

Charlie Coulson

By Dr. ML. Rosvally

the Christian Drummer Boy

I was a surgeon in the United States Army during the Civil War. After the battle of Gettysburg, there were hundreds of wounded soldiers in my hospital. Many were wounded so severely that a leg or an arm, or sometimes both, needed to be amputated.

One of these was a boy who had only been in the service for three months. Since he was too young to be a soldier, he had enlisted as a drummer. When my assistants came to give him chloroform before the amputation, he turned his head and refused it. When they told him that it was the doctor's orders, he said, "Send the doctor to me." I came to his bedside and said, "Young man, why do you refuse the chloroform? When I found you on the battlefield, you were so far gone that I almost didn't bother to pick you up. But when you opened those large blue eyes, it occurred to me that you had a mother somewhere who might be thinking of you at that very moment. I didn't want you to die on the field, so I had you brought here. But you've lost so much blood that you're just too weak to live through an operation without chloroform. You'd better let me give you some."

He laid his hand on mine, looked me in the face and said, "Doctor, on Sunday afternoon, when I was nine and a half years old, I gave my heart to Christ. I learned to trust Him then, and I've been trusting Him ever since. I know I can trust Him Now. He is my strength. He will support me while you amputate my arm and leg." I asked him if he would at least let me give him a little brandy. Again he looked at me and said, "Doctor, when I was about five years old, my mother knelt by my side with her arms around me, and said: 'Charlie, I am praying to Jesus that you will never take even one drink of alcohol. Your father died a drunkard, and I've asked God to use you to warn people against the dangers of drinking, and to encourage them to love and serve the Lord.' I am now 17 years old, and I have never had anything stronger than tea or coffee. There is a very good chance that I am about to die and to go into the presence of my God. Would you send me there with brandy on my breath?"

I will never forget the look that boy gave me. At that time I hated Jesus, but I respected that boy's loyalty to his Savior. And when I saw how he loved and trusted Him to the very end,

something deeply touched my heart. I did for that boy what I had never done for any other soldier – I asked him if he wanted to see his chaplain.

Chaplain R. knew the boy well from having seen him frequently at the tent prayer meetings. Taking his hand, he said, "Charlie, I'm really sorry to see you like this." "Oh, I'm all right, sir," Charlie answered. "The doctor offered me chloroform, but I told him I didn't want any. Then he wanted to give me brandy, which I didn't want either. So now, if my Savior calls me, I can go to Him in my right mind."

"You might not die, Charlie" said the chaplain, "but if the Lord does call you home, is there anything I can do for you after you're gone?" "Chaplain, please reach under my pillow and take my little Bible. My mother's address is inside. Please send it to her, and write a letter for me. Tell her that since I left home, I have never let a single day pass – no matter if we were on the march, on the battlefield, or in the hospital – without reading a portion of God's Word, and daily praying that He would bless her."

"Is there anything else I can do for you,



my lad?" asked the chaplain. "Yes – please write a letter to the Sunday School teacher in Brooklyn, New York. Tell him that I've never forgotten his encouragement, good advice, and many prayers for me. They have helped and comforted me through all the dangers of battle. And now, in my dying hour, I thank the Lord for my dear old teacher, and ask Him to bless and strengthen him. That is all."

Then turning to me, he said, "I'm ready doctor. I promise I won't even groan while you take off my arm and leg, if you don't offer my chloroform." I promised, but I didn't have the courage to take the knife in my hand without first going into the next room and taking a little brandy myself.

While cutting through the flesh, Charlie Coulson never groaned. But when I took the saw to separate the bone, the lad took the corner of his pillow in his mouth, and all I could hear him whisper was, "O Jesus, blessed Jesus! Stand by me now." He kept his promise. He never groaned.

I couldn't sleep that night. Whichever way I tossed and turned, I saw those soft blue eyes, and when I closed my own eyes, the words, "Blessed Jesus, stand by me now," kept ringing in my ears. A little after midnight, I finally left my bed and visited the hospital – a thing I had never done before unless there was an emergency. I had such a strange and strong desire to see that boy. When I got there, an orderly told me that 16 of the badly wounded soldiers had died. "Was Charlie Coulson one of the?" I asked. "No, sir," he answered, "he's sleeping as sweetly as a babe."

When I came to his bed, one of the nurses said that at about nine o'clock, two members of the Y.M.C.A. came through the hospital to read and sing a hymn. Chaplain R. was with them, and he knelt by Charlie's bed and offered

up a fervent and soul-stirring prayer. Then, while still on their knees, they sang one of the sweetest of all hymns, "Jesus Lover Of My Soul." Charlie sang along with them, too. I couldn't understand how that boy, who was in such horrible pain, could sing.

Five days after I performed the operations, Charlie sent for me, and it was from him that I heard my first Gospel sermon. "Doctor," he said, "my time has come. I don't expect to see another sunrise. I want to thank you with all my heart for your kindness to me. I know you are Jewish, and that you don't believe in Jesus, but I want you to stay with me, and see me die trusting my Savior to the last moment of my life." I tried to stay, but I just couldn't. I didn't have the courage to stand by and see a Christian boy die rejoicing in the love of that Jesus who I hated. So I hurriedly left the room.

About 20 minutes later an orderly came and found me sitting in my office with my hands covering my face. He told me that Charlie wanted to see me. "I've just seen him," I answered, "and I can't see him again."



"But, doctor, he says he must see you once more before he dies." So I made up my mind to go and see Charlie, say an endearing word, and let him die. However, I was determined that nothing he could say would influence me in the least bit, so far as his Jesus was concerned.

When I entered the hospital I saw he was sinking fast, so I sat down by his bed. Asking me to take his hand, he said, "Doctor, I love you because you are a Jew. The best friend I have found in this world was a Jew." I asked him who that was, and he answered, "Jesus Christ, and I want to introduce you to Him before I die. Will you promise me, doctor, that what I am about to say to you, you will never forget?" I promised, and he said, "Five days ago, while you amputated my arm and leg, I prayed to the Lord Jesus Christ and asked Him to make His love known to you."

Those words went deep into my heart. I couldn't understand how, when I was causing him the most intense pain, he could forget all about himself and think of nothing but his Savior and my unconverted soul. All I could say to him was, "Well, my dear boy, you will soon be all right." With these words I left him, and 12 minutes later he fell asleep, "safe in the arms of Jesus."

Hundreds of soldiers died in my hospital during the war, but I only followed one to the grave, and that was Charlie Coulson. I rode three miles to see him buried. I had him dressed in a new uniform, and placed in an officer's coffin, with a United States flag over it.

That boy's dying words made a deep impression upon me. I was rich at that time so far as money was concerned, but I would have given every penny I possessed if I could have felt towards Christ as Charlie did. But that feeling cannot be bought with money. Alas, I soon forgot all about my

Christian soldier's little sermon, but I could not forget the boy himself. Looking back, I now know that I was under deep conviction of sin at that time. But for nearly ten years I fought against Christ with all the hatred I had, until finally the dear boy's prayer was answered, and I surrendered my life to the love of Jesus.

About a year-and-a-half after my conversion, I went to a prayer meeting one evening in Brooklyn. It was one of those meetings where Christians testify about the loving kindness of God. After several had spoken, an elderly lady stood up and said, "Dear friends, this may be the last time I have a chance to publicly share how good the Lord has been to me. My doctor told me yesterday that my right lung is nearly gone, and my left lung is failing fast, so at the best I only have a short time to be with you. But what is left of me belongs to Jesus. It's a great joy to know that I shall soon meet my son with Jesus in heaven."

"Charlie was not only a soldier for his country, but also a soldier for Christ. He was wounded at the battle of Gettysburg, and was cared for by a Jewish doctor, who amputated his arm and leg. He died five days after the operation. The chaplain of the regiment wrote me a letter, and sent me my boy's Bible. I was told that in his dying hour, my Charlie sent for that Jewish doctor, and said to him, 'Doctor, before I die I wish to tell you that five days ago, while you amputated my arm and leg, I prayed to the Lord Jesus Christ for you.'"

As I heard this lady speak, I just couldn't sit still! I left my seat, ran across the room, and taking her hand said, "God bless you, my dear sister. Your boy's prayer has been heard and answered! I am the Jewish doctor that Charlie prayed for, and his Savior is now my Savior! The love of Jesus has won my soul!"



This article is available in print to pass out or use at Bible studies. Refer to WiseTract #59056 when ordering. You can also download it free for your personal use at www.lastdaysministries.org.



AAA was launched as the pro-life arm of LDM in 1985 by Melody Green. Since then our pro-life materials have gone around the world and translated into more languages than we can count. And they have helped YOU save more babies than anyone could know this side of heaven.

We give God the glory for all of this – and more!

AAA will continue to give you the tools you need for your pro-life efforts. And we will be adding to them as well! I'm sure you noticed our year 2000 update of "Children Things We Throw Away" in our last LDM Magazine – and we aren't stopping there.

All of our pro-life materials will again be available from us in the original LDM versions, and updated as needed.

Our goals at AAA are to:

- Save babies lives
- Save women from the trauma of abortion
- Educate people in Biblical principles of Life
- Encourage all non-violent areas of pro-life involvement
- Help be a unifying force in the pro-life movement
- Supply pro-life materials that really make a difference

AAA will continue to write and speak out in all of the above areas, as well as provide you with tools to do the same. It will take all of us working together to accomplish the maximum results. And guess who gets all the credit in the end? Just Jesus. If we are OK with that, God will breathe on our efforts and increase the fruit of our labors.

The battle is still raging. Can we count you in?

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